

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below, without prejudice:

Claims 1-42 (Canceled)

43. (Original) A bracket for attaching a fence rail to a support structure, said fence rail having a retention clip disposed on an end thereof, said bracket comprising:

a back wall having a front face and a rear face;

a rail support extending from said front face of said back wall for receiving said fence rail; and

a catch disposed on said rear face of said back wall for engaging with said retention clip;

wherein said bracket is configured to be attached to said support structure such that engagement of said retention clip with said catch attaches said fence rail to said support structure.

44. (Original) The bracket of claim 43, wherein said bracket further comprises means for attaching said bracket to said support structure.

45. (Original) The bracket of claim 44, wherein said means for attaching said bracket to said support structure comprises at least one opening for receiving a fastener.

46. (Original) The bracket of claim 43, wherein said back wall further comprises at least one edge projecting from said rear face surrounding said at least one opening.

47. (Original) The bracket of claim 43, wherein said rail support comprises a bottom wall.

48. (Original) The bracket of claim 47, wherein said bottom wall comprises a mouth for receiving a vertical fence member.

49. (Original) The bracket of claim 47, wherein said rail support further comprises a first side wall and a second side wall to form a substantial "U" shape with said bottom wall.

50. (Original) The bracket of claim 49, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall each comprise a groove for receiving a ridge to attach a cap to said bracket.

51. (Original) The bracket of claim 43, wherein said back wall comprises a recessed area surrounding said catch to form a space for receiving said retention clip.

Claims 52-67 (Canceled)

68. (New) A bracket for attaching a fence rail to a support structure, said fence rail having a retention clip disposed on an end thereof, said bracket comprising:

a back wall having a front face and a rear face;

a bottom wall extending from said front face of said back wall for supporting said fence rail; and

a catch disposed on said back wall for engaging with said retention clip;

wherein said bracket is configured to be attached to said support structure such that engagement of said retention clip with said catch attaches said fence rail to said support structure.

69. (New) The bracket of claim 68, wherein said bracket further comprises means for attaching said bracket to said support structure.

70. (New) The bracket of claim 69, wherein said means for attaching said bracket to said support structure comprises at least one opening for receiving a fastener.

71. (New) The bracket of claim 68, wherein said back wall further comprises at least one edge projecting from said rear face surrounding said at least one opening.

72. (New) The bracket of claim 68, wherein said catch is disposed on said rear face of said back wall.

73. (New) The bracket of claim 68, wherein said bottom wall comprises a mouth for receiving a vertical fence member.

74. (New) The bracket of claim 68, further comprising a first side wall and a second side wall extending from said back wall to form a substantial "U" shape with said bottom wall.

75. (New) The bracket of claim 74, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall each comprise a groove for receiving a ridge to attach a cap to said bracket.

76. (New) The bracket of claim 68, wherein said back wall comprises a recessed area surrounding said catch to form a space for receiving said retention clip.

77. (New) The bracket of claim 70, wherein said at least one opening is substantially oval shaped.

78. (New) A bracket for attaching a fence rail to a support structure, said fence rail having a retention clip disposed on an end thereof, said bracket comprising:

a back wall having a front face and a rear face;

a rail support extending from said front face of said back wall for receiving said fence rail; and

a catch disposed on said rear face of said back wall for engaging with said retention clip, said catch comprising complementary teeth for meshing with teeth disposed on said retention clip;

wherein said bracket is configured to be attached to said support structure such that engagement of said retention clip with said catch attaches said fence rail to said support structure;

wherein said bracket further comprises means for attaching said bracket to said support structure;

wherein said means for attaching said bracket to said support structure comprises at least one opening for receiving a fastener;

wherein said back wall further comprises at least one edge projecting from said rear face surrounding said at least one opening;

wherein said rail support comprises a bottom wall;

wherein said bottom wall comprises a mouth for receiving a vertical fence member;

wherein said rail support further comprises a first side wall and a second side wall extending from said back wall to form a substantial "U" shape with said bottom wall;

wherein said first side wall and said second side wall each comprise a groove for receiving a ridge to attach a cap to said bracket; and

wherein said back wall comprises a recessed area surrounding said catch to form a space for receiving said retention clip.